

Research Article

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Notes on two phycitine species of Van Lake Basin (East Turkey) (Lepidoptera, Pyralidae)

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Abstract: Notes on two phycitine species of Van Lake Basin (East Turkey) (Lepidoptera, Pyralidae). *Cesa News* 148: 1-5, 14 figs.

In this paper, faunistic and bionomic notes of two phycitine species from East Turkey are given. *Pempelia albariella* is reported here as new to Van fauna. *Onobrychis cornuta* (Fabaceae) is given here as a new larval food-plant for this species. Caterpillar of *P. albariella* is illustrated. *Synoria antiquella* is recorded as new to Bitlis fauna. The genitalia of both species are illustrated.

Keywords: *Pyralidae*, *Synoria antiquella*, *Pempelia albariella*, fauna, Van, Bitlis, Turkey.

Pempelia albariella Zeller, 1839

This species is very little known in Turkey. It was described from Hungary, distributed in southern Europe, Balkans, and represented by subsp. *dilucida* Staudinger from Amasya (type-locality), and Sivas (Seven & Akın, 2017).

The authors realized several excursions in 2014 to Gören (Irerini) Mountain in Tuşba district (Van Province). The first results was published by them (Kemal & Koçak, 2014). On 31 May 2014, the first author found there a caterpillar among the thorny leaves of *Onobrychis cornuta* (Fabaceae), one of the most important component of tragacanthic mountain steppe cover (**Fig.1**). After feeding the caterpillar in the laboratory with the leaves of *Onobrychis cornuta*, a female adult emerged on 29 6 2014 (**Figs. 2-7**).

For the identity of this species Lepiforum (2017), and Leraut (2014) are recommended.

Material studied: 1♀ (wingspan: 22mm). East Turkey, Van Prov., Tuşba, Irerini Mt. 1860m (65Np1), ex larva on 31 5 2014; emerged on 28 6 2014, M.Kemal (Cesa)

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Fig. 1- Habitat of *Pempelia albariella*, tragacanthic mountain steppe with *Onobrychis cornuta* in flower. Irerini Mt. (65Np1), on 18 5 2014, M. Kemal (Cesa)



Figs. 2, 3 – In captivity, the caterpillar of *Pempelia albariella* sits inside of an irregularly constructed silky cocoon among the leaves of the food-plant *Onobrychis cornuta*, on 31 5 2014, M. Kemal (Cesa)



Figs. 4, 5 – Fully grown caterpillar of *Pempelia albariella* in captivity, on 11 6 2014 (above); lateral view of the emerged female, on 28 6 2014 (below), M. Kemal (Cesa)



Figs. 6, 7– *Pempelia albariella*. Upperside of the female, Van Prov., Tuşba, Irerini Mt., emerged on 28 6 2014 (above), female genitalia GP2773 (below), M. Kemal (Cesa)

***Synoria antiquella* (Herrich-Schäffer,[1855])**

This species was described from Amasya. It is distributed from Greece, Turkey to Turkmenistan and Afghanistan. In Turkey, it was recorded from Amasya, Bursa, Konya, Malatya, Maraş, Van, Karaman and Iğdır (Kazıkoparan). The present record from Süphan Mt. (Aygır 1960m) is new to the fauna of Bitlis Province.

The adults (wingspan: 24-27mm) of the species are nocturnal (**Figs. 9, 10**). It is inhabited in the mountain steppe, and represented by a single generation in a year.

For the identity of the species Roesler's (1993) descriptions were evaluated. The aedeagus of the male genitalia depicted, and the proportions of the cornuti (Roesler, 1993: Taf.45 fig.101) are not correct. For the proportions of the cornuti, and lateral spines of the aedeagus (*vide*, **Fig.13**). Although Roesler (1993:230) stated "Culcita nicht festgestellt", in the genitalic preparation, culcita may be clearly seen (*vide* **Fig. 14**). Below, also the tympanal organs are illustrated (**Figs. 11, 12**) for the first time.

Material examined: 1♂. East Turkey: Bitlis Province, Adilcevaz, Süphan Mt., Aygır lake 1970m (13Ab), on 15 7 2015 (nocturnal), M. Kemal & A.Koçak leg. (Cesa)²; 1♂. Çatak, Saklıvadi 2030m, on 23 8 2016 (nocturnal), M. Kemal & A.Koçak leg. (Cesa); 1♂. Van Province: 6km güney Gevaş 2100m, 3 8 2005 (nocturnal), H.Özkol & L.Kayci leg. (YYUIRC)³



Fig. 8 – Habitat of *Synoria antiquella*. Bitlis Province, Adilcevaz, around Aygır Lake 1970m (Süphan Mt.), 15 7 2015, M. Kemal (Cesa)



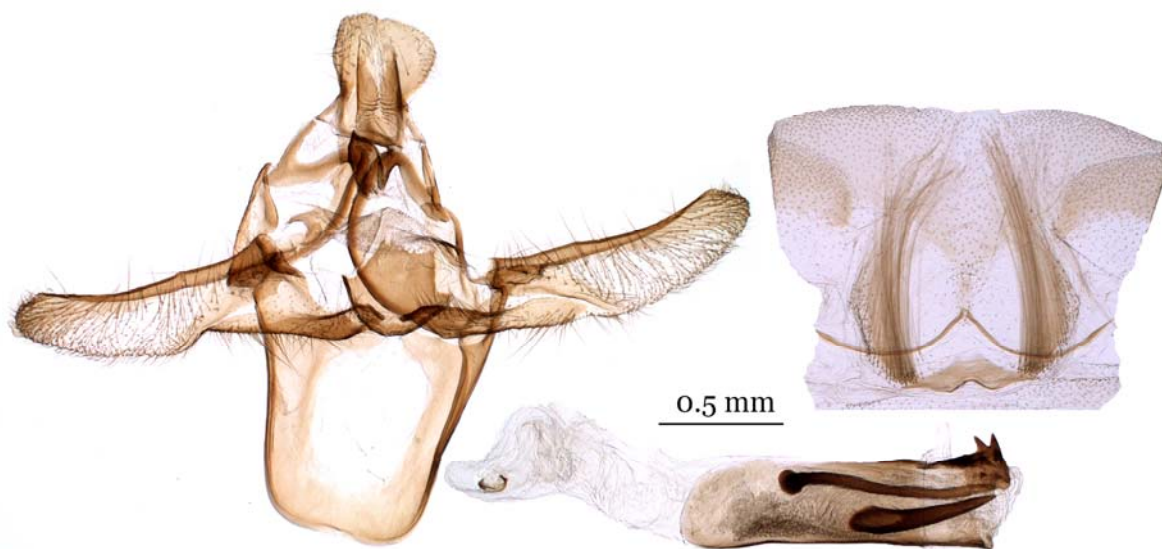
Figs. 9, 10 – *Synoria antiquella*. Near aygır Lake 1970m, at the place where collected in the night on 15 7 2015 (left); same specimen Upperside of wings. GP2772. Bitlis Province, Adilcevaz, Süphan Mt. Aygır lake 1970m, M. Kemal (Cesa)

² <http://grbio.org/cool/eaaz-xyfc>

³ <http://grbio.org/cool/39ot-itxm>



Figs. 11, 12 – *Synoria antiquella*. Tympanal organ (before and after preparation). GP2772. Bitlis Province, Adilcevaz, Süphan Mt. Aygır lake 1960m on M. Kemal (Cesa)



Figs. 13, 14 – *Synoria antiquella*. Male genitalia (aedeagus removed), and culcita. GP2772. Bitlis Province, Adilcevaz, Süphan Mt. Aygır lake 1960m on M. Kemal (Cesa)

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